

## **Moray West Onshore Transmission Infrastructure**

### **Proposal of Application Notice – Additional Information**

#### **Note 1 – Site Address of the Proposed Development**

Moray Offshore Windfarm (West) Limited (known as Moray West) is promoting the development of the Moray West Offshore Wind Farm. The wind farm will be located in the outer Moray Firth approximately 31.5 km north of the Moray coastline at its nearest point. Export cables will transport power generated by the Moray West Offshore Wind Farm beneath the seabed to a landfall location along the southern coastline of the Moray Firth. From the landfall location, the power will need to be transported inland to a location where it can be connected into the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) has determined the most suitable location to be the existing Blackhillock substation approximately 1.5 km south of Keith in Moray.

The proposed development to which this Proposal of Application Notice relates is the Moray West Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI). This comprises all infrastructure associated with the Moray West Offshore Wind Farm to be located landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS). It should be noted that although Blackhillock substation is located within Moray, the landfall location for the OnTI will be at a point along the Aberdeenshire coastline. The OnTI will therefore span both council areas with infrastructure located in both Aberdeenshire Council and The Moray Council areas.

Figure 1 shows the location of the site, while Figure 2 shows the location of the site within Aberdeenshire Council's area and Figure 3 shows the location of the site within The Moray Council area. It should be noted that the site currently covers an area larger than that required for the OnTI. For the application, Moray West will identify an area within the site that includes a cable corridor of approximately 500 m in width and a site for the new onshore substation of approximately 7 ha in area (see Note 2).

#### **Note 2 – Description of the Proposed Development**

The OnTI is likely to comprise an onshore substation, which will be located in the vicinity of the existing Blackhillock substation south of Keith in Moray, and two onshore cable circuits which will run from an underground transition joint bay (where the offshore export cable circuits will come ashore at the Aberdeenshire coast and be joined to the onshore export cable circuits) to the onshore substation. The onshore cable circuits will be below ground along their entire length. Further buried cable circuits will be required between the onshore substation and Blackhillock substation. It is likely that each cable circuit will comprise three separate cables in trefoil formation together with separate communications cables. Two cable circuits will be buried approximately 1 m below ground, each in an individual trench with a separation distance of up to 10 m between them. Fibre optic communication links may be embedded within the cables or buried as separate, smaller cables running alongside the cable circuits. The cable circuits will be installed in lengths of approximately 750 to 1,000 m connected within buried joint bays. These joint bays are likely to be concrete lined excavations containing the cable joints and cable circuits. The joint bays will not include any above ground structures, but surface level access covers will be required in their vicinity to allow for maintenance.

It is likely that the onshore substation will require a site covering approximately 7 ha. High-voltage electrical apparatus will be installed at the site. Much of the apparatus will be external, although permanent buildings will also be required. The number and size of buildings will depend upon the chosen technology. A perimeter fence approximately 3 m high will be erected around the site.

It is likely that the OnTI will utilise a high voltage alternating current system which will operate at 132 to 400 kilovolts (kV).

### **Note 3 – Consultation Strategy**

Moray West proposes to hold three public events, one in Aberdeenshire and two in Moray. Each public event will take the following approach:

- Open from 12.00 pm until 8.00 pm. This is intended to provide accessibility for those who can attend during lunch hours, as well as provision for those who are only able to attend after the end of the working day.
- Storyboard display providing information on both the OnTI and the wider Moray West Offshore Wind Farm project. Audience-specific literature available to the public.
- Staffed by members of the team working on both the OnTI and the wider project with skills in both consenting and engineering. Use of project staff in addition to public relations consultancy enables direct communication between stakeholders and the project, as well as providing the most up-to-date information about the OnTI and its relationship with other aspects of the wider project.
- Feedback on the proposals will be collected through opinion survey leaflets, thus allowing consultation rather than simple provision of information.
- Public events will be advertised two weeks in advance in the following local newspapers: The Banffshire Journal (Banff); Banffshire Advertiser (Buckie); and Banffshire Herald (Keith).

The public events will be held at the following venues / locations and on the following dates:

- Old Coach House Hotel, High Street, Buckie, AB56 1AR – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- Royal Hotel, Church Road, Keith, AB55 5BR – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- Station Hotel, 22 Seafield Street, Portsoy, Banff, AB45 2QT – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

### **Note 4 – Community Councils served with this Proposal of Application Notice**

This Proposal of Application Notice was issued to the following Community Councils on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018:

- Fordyce, Sandend and Rural District Community Council (Aberdeenshire), e-mail: [cornelia@corneliagriffin.com](mailto:cornelia@corneliagriffin.com).
- Strathbogie Community Council (Aberdeenshire), e-mail: [strathbogiecc@gmail.com](mailto:strathbogiecc@gmail.com).
- Cullen and Deskford Community Council (Moray), e-mail: [cdccouncil@gmail.com](mailto:cdccouncil@gmail.com).
- Keith Community Council (Moray), e-mail: [keithcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:keithcommunitycouncil@gmail.com).
- Strathisla Community Council (Moray), e-mail: [strathislacc@gmail.com](mailto:strathislacc@gmail.com).

In addition, Local Authority Members and Members of Parliament will be notified in advance of the public exhibitions and provided with appropriate literature.

Council wards with a geographic interest in the proposed development include:

- Banff and District (Aberdeenshire).
- Huntly, Strathbogie and Howe of Alford (Aberdeenshire).
- Keith and Cullen (Moray).

The following Scottish parliamentary constituencies have been identified as having a geographic interest in the OnTI:

- Banffshire and Buchan Coast.
- Moray.

The following Westminster parliamentary constituencies have been identified as having a geographic interest in the OnTI:

- Banff and Buchan.
- Moray.